

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - HARTFORD - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 19

Issue 8

May 2009

CLUB LISTINGS

RESTAURANTS

CONCERT INFO

BAND LISTINGS

REVIEWS

& MORE

**An
Interview
With**

**POPA
CHUBBY**

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1
R&B HAPPY HOUR
MIND, BODY
& SOUL
MILL CITY
ORIGINAL
SHOWCASE

2
1800
ALT ROCK
LOUD & PROUD

8
HAPPY HOUR
PHIL NEWLAND
ACOUSTIC
SuGaR
DISCO FUNK
HIP-HOP R&B

9
THE HOOLIOS
W/ SPECIAL
GUESTS
THE
RIVERGODS

15
HAPPY HOUR
KARL KELLY CO.
**DOUBLE
FISTED**
DAMN GOOD
ROCK

16
**DARIK & THE
FUNBAGS**
ULTIMATE
PARTY BAND

22
HAPPY HOUR
SUE MENHART
BAND
**FLOWERS
& KAIN**
THROW YOUR
"L'S UP!!

23
FAT BETTY
FOR THE LOVE
OF ROCK & ROLL

29
HAPPY HOUR
SUNDAY GRAVY
WICKED PEACH
ROCK GODS

30
**BIG
FLOPPY DISK**
80'S DANCE
PARTY

**MONDAY NIGHTS
& WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**
CENTER STAGE KARAOKE
w/Mike Mrazik 9pm

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PUB QUIZ NIGHT at STASH'S
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6-9pm

FRIDAY 1st
**MIND, BODY
& SOUL**

FRIDAY 8th
**PHIL
NEWLAND**

FRIDAY 15th
**KARL KELLY
& COMPANY**

FRIDAY 22nd
**SUE
MENHART
BAND**

FRIDAY 29th
**SUNDAY
GRAVY**

6-9pm

STASH' CAFE
WII Bowling League

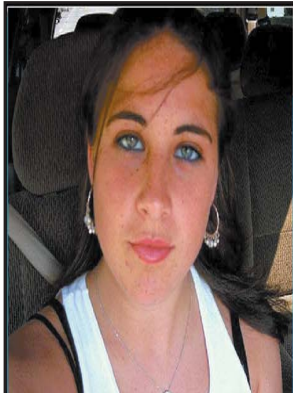
SUNDAY NIGHTS
See Mark or Graham for Details!

Saturday May 9th
THE HOOLIOS
with special guest
THE RIVERGODS

Saturday May 16th
**DARIK & THE
FUNBAGS**

Sunday May 24th
PAPPY'S DAY
Breakfast at Stash's
A Portion of the Day's
Proceeds to Benefit
Pappy's Run 2010
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8:00pm High Times

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Sound Waves

May 2009

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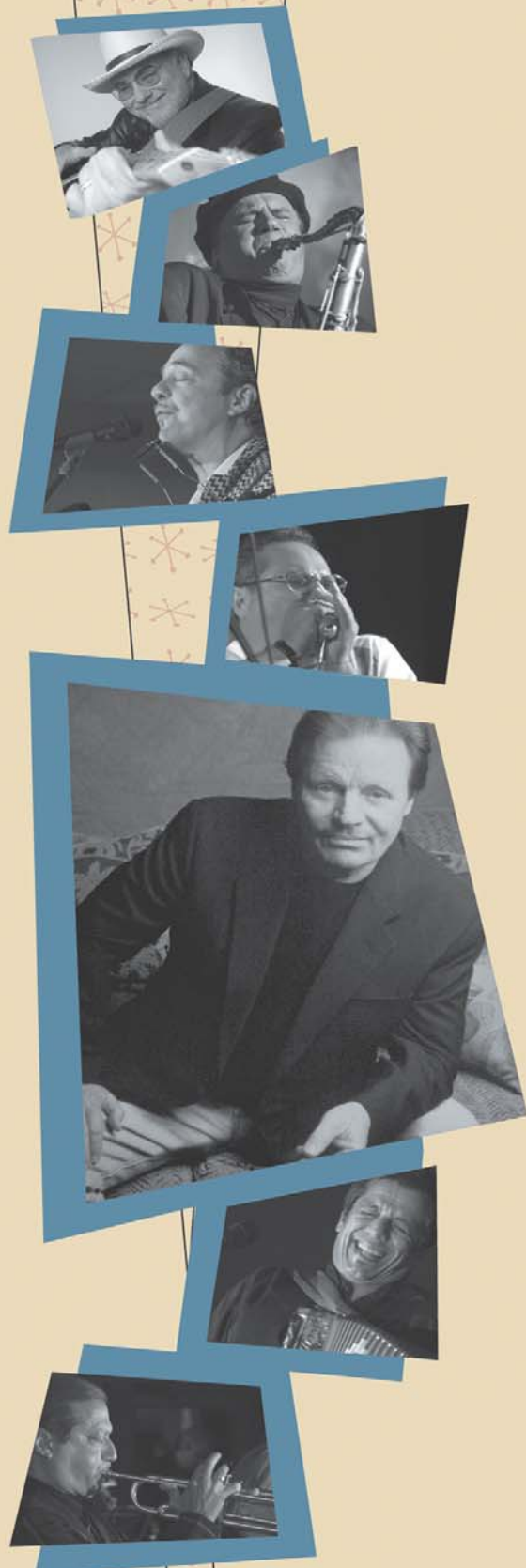
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MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2009



THE KNICKERBOCKER CAFE GRAND OPENING

THU May 22 The Mystic Horns ^{FR} May 23

The Pawcatuck River Valley Blues Review

Duke Robillard, Greg Piccolo, Johnny Nicholas, Sugar Ray Norcia with an All-Star band featuring Joel Guzman, Al Gomez, Doug James, Carl Querforth and more

SUN May 24 Delbert McClinton

Opening Act *** The Texas All-Stars

Doors open: 6p | Shows start: 8p | General Admission

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35 Railroad Ave. | Westerly, RI | 401.596.4225 | theknickerbockercafe.com

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Cover/Story Photo by
Patricia de Gorostarzu

RiverWalk RESTAURANT

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11:30 ~ 4:00 Lunch
Sun~Thurs
4:00 ~ 10:00 Dinner
Fri~Sat 4-11

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CONCERT DATES

Ana Popovic

22 - Bank Street Cafe, New London, CT

Barefoot Truth

2 - Conn College, New London, CT

BK3

30 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Black Eyed Peas

17 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

Britney Spears

2,3 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Coldplay

23 - Meadows Theater, Hartford, CT

Gloria Estefan

22,23,24 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Jamey Johnson

8 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

John Prine

8 - Shubert Theater, New Haven, CT

Keith Urban/Sugarland

6,8 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

The Killers

9 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Korn

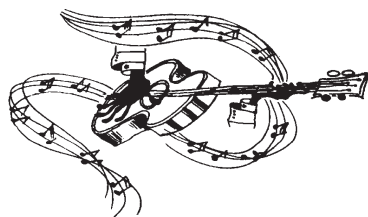
22 - Chevrolet Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Natalie MacMaster

15 - Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

Popa Chubby

9 - Bank Street Cafe, New London, CT



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NANTUCKET
NECTARS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25

HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS



FRIDAY, JUNE 26

LOS LOBOS

Opening Act: Santa Mamba



SATURDAY, JUNE 27

SUSAN TEDESCHI

with special guest
Shemekia Copeland



FRIDAY, JULY 24

MICHAEL MCDONALD

Special Guest: Dylan McDonald



SATURDAY, JULY 25

THE ROBERT CRAY BAND

Opening Act: Kristin Diable



WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

CHRIS ISAAK



FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

GUSTER



FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

THE TEMPTATIONS

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM • MAIN STAGE ACTS BEGIN AT 7:00PM

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May 15th
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**SATURDAYS
DJ DANNY O - 10pm**

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MUSIC NOTES

It's Getting Better (Hopefully...) All The Time

By Mark T. Gould



OK. Las Vegas show done. Check. Rock Band video game done. Check. What's left?

Oh, yeah, the Beatles' music. You do remember the music, right?

Ed Sullivan. Screaming fans. Changed the world.

Yeah, that music.

You remember, right?

RIGHT?!

Duh.

Some two decades after they were first rush-released into circulation, replete with the harsh, tinny sound so commonplace for those early days of compact discs, and after spending the last few years developing the Cirque du Soleil-based "Love" show in Las Vegas and the MTV-sponsored and influenced "Rock Band": video game, Apple Corps., the Beatles' production company, and EMI, what's left of their former record company, are finally getting off their collective keisters and giving us long-suffering Beatles fans what has been long and conspicuously been missing: sonically upgraded reissues of the group's original British albums, in stereo and mono. The companies have announced that the remasters would be released on individual stereo CDs and in two boxed sets — one stereo, the other mono - on September 9, the same day the "Rock Band" music video game is scheduled for release. 9/9/09. "Number Nine, Number Nine, Number Nine..." If you're a Beatles fan, and, heck, who among us isn't, it has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? However, given the muddled, maddeningly-slow history of these companies getting these releases out, one can only think that the date is mere happenstance.

Like the original set of Beatles CDs, released in 1987 and not upgraded since, the reissue series will include only the 12 albums the Beatles released in Britain between 1963 and 1970, from "Please Please Me" through "Let It Be," along with "Magical Mystery Tour" — an American album that was originally released as a two-EP set in England — and the two-CD "Past Masters" compilation of the group's non album singles. All told, the set includes 16 CDs. Compilations released since 1987, including the "Beatles Anthology" series, "The Beatles Live at the BBC," "Yellow Submarine," the hits package entitled "1," and "Love," the soundtrack for the Las Vegas show, are not included in the new series.

Sounds pretty, well, fab, so far, right? Yet, I'm not so certain that I would run right out and pour my stimulus check into these purchases.

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While certainly nobody, especially this Beatles fanatic, wants to rain on this parade, and while improvements in digital sound technology and remastering equipment have certainly yielded a richer, smoother sound overall in the more than 20 years since the original releases, it still remains to be seen (heard?) if the new remasters will add sonic bliss to fans' listening experiences.

Despite the overall improvements, remastering is still a tricky business where noise-reduction techniques can slice away the high frequencies of a recording, dulling the treble sound (in return for eliminating tape hiss), a combination that drives audiophiles crazy. And, while I'm certain that I don't have ears that would pass muster to be called an audiophile, I most certainly want this seminal important music to sound as good as it possibly can. EMI's remastering team may have taken this into consideration, because the production notes mention that fewer than five of the 525 minutes of music were subjected to noise reduction. The new transfers were done using a high-resolution Pro Tools system, and each track was compared with both its vinyl LP and 1987 CD incarnations.

Well, we shall see. And hear.

Still, sound concerns aside, Beatles fans and collectors, whom shall we say are a bit demanding and meticulous lot, are also frustrated that the packages will not include any bonus tracks, outtakes or extras, even though, as most of them know (probably by inventorying their private collections), there's a slew of those recorded treasures languishing in the EMI vaults.

Moreover, the group's first seven albums (through "Revolver") include only about 30 to 36 minutes of music, which certainly leaves a whole bunch of unused CD space for some of these cool extras. The mono and stereo versions of each — collectors prize both because of anomalies like different vocal takes, instrumental lines or effects — could have fit on a single CD with room to spare.

Yet, the suits who are putting these releases together steadfastly refused to go in that direction, giving us the usual drivel and excuses about "presenting the releases as they've always been known," blah, blah, blah.....

Simply put, don't go looking for the long-rumored 27-minute outtake of "Helter Skelter" from the "White Album" sessions in this package.

The mono boxed set, in fact, demonstrates this collectors' conundrum. Because the stereo CDs will include legendary Beatles producer George Martin's 1987 remixes of "Help!" and "Rubber Soul" — mixes that have been the subject of much criticism and debate among Beatles fanatics — the mono CDs of those albums will include both the mono and the original 1965 stereo mixes of those albums. Those are, however, available only in the mono boxed set, which includes the 10 albums (through "The Beatles," popularly known as the "White Album") that were mixed separately for mono and stereo in the '60s, as well as a mono equivalent of "Past Masters."

Got it? Good. Is your hair hurting from this? Bad.

Having spent years fantasizing about the ideal reissue series, collectors will also be disappointed about the high-



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Fri. 1st - **FLIPSIDE**

Thurs. 7th - **THE SHARKS** 8-11

Fri. 8th - **LEE & ROBB**

Thurs. 14th - **TBA** 8-11

Fri. 15th - **WILSON-KANE**

Thurs. 21st - **THE SHARKS** 8-11

Fri. 22nd - **BAND OF HUMANS**

Thurs. 28th - **LEE & ROBB** 8-11

Fri. 29th - **KEVIN & HEATHER**

Thurs. June 4th - **RUMBLE HOOTS** 8-11

Welcome Summer Party ~ Sun. 31st ~ 5-9pm

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16th - **FAT BETTY**

23rd - **SKINNY MULLIGAN**

30th - **BLUE REIGN**



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The only night for the Amazing 22oz Happy Banana Cocktail!

CINCO De MAYO PARTY
for all you Gringos that's May 5th *Specials All Day!*

Get Ready! Saturday MAY 16th starting @ 5pm
1st annual

"SUMMER SEND OFF ~ SCAVANGER HUNT"
Benefit event for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
Buy a shirt at a participating Westerly/Pawcatuck business. Get it signed by all participating businesses on May 16th between 5pm-9:30pm, Bring it to the Hootie's and get your ticket for the big feast & raffle at Hootie's.

Awesome Cheap food served til 1:30am
Home of the Cheesy Fry ~ Nothing Over \$5!!

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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Spring has sprung my Sweet Barflies, and you know what that means. More Thursday night Poker Runs from the HANDLEBAR CAFE!!!! Can't wait. Our first one is tentatively set for Thursday, May 7...obviously it all will depend on our ever so lovely New England weather. So e-mail me or those of you whose numbers I have, be expecting the exciting text messages which I send out in

bulk the day before. Anticipation, oooooohh, I can just feel summer in the air!

I have been doing a lot of shifts at the HANDLEBAR CAFE this month because JP snapped his Achilles tendon in a classic bartender move, jumping for a spilling beer... yes, it is workmen compensation able! So my brain and my liver have not been feeling so well this month. I think I've drank more this month than the last twelve combined! I have GOT TO BE STOPPED!! No, seriously... we've been having alot of fun there, I think because everyone has spring fever. Alot of friends have stopped by to say hello to me while I've been hard at work and I would like to thank them....Larry and Tammy Algiere (remember her? My Patron drinkin', new best friend), the Pizza family celebrating son Nick's 21st and not really likin' my lemon drops (bring olives) (oh and sorry about the no-show at the Calabrese Club...next month???)...new friends Mike and Eugene.... the retired WPD (very hot!!... ladies) my favorite student, Danny Bell, always sweet Ed Adams, Rose Turdo and Cindy, BarFly Journal fans Terry & Arnold, Allison without Rob and of course Carl and Beth...sporting a fancy new car!

So....HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to us....we've been together for a whole year. Can you believe it? Time is just flyin' by. Personally it's been a fantastic year. So many good things to be thankful for. Sure, there are days that get you down and times have definitely gotten tough, but seriously don't let it get to you....life is GOOD! And I am going to work at making this another Fabulous Year!

Went to STASH'S again this month....WICKED PEACH was playing wickedly and 20 of my closest girl friends were there celebrating Michelle Azzinaro's Big 40. They had been to a Mexican Restaurant in New London, ZA-VALA'S, near the train station, and reported in, as proper Barflies should, that the food and Margarita's were both Faaabuuuulouss!! We met up at STASH'S after Tammy, Michele, Amy and the rest of the girl's were dropped off by their niece, the designated driver. The girl's were really celebrating and having a helluva good time and certainly

added a certain spark to the evening. What a nice way to celebrate a milestone birthday than with good friends... dancing the night away!! (and maybe just a little tequila as an added benefit)

OK days for your calendar...Tuesday, May 5...VFW in Pawcatuck will be a benefit for a good friend of ours Dona Duffy who has been sadly stricken with cancer and needs all of our support! The benefit is being sponsored by Dona's friends at SKIPPER'S DOCK who have worked with Dona for years. So needless to say lots of good food, good music and good friends. Hope you come and show Dona your support!

Next we go to KNICKERBOCKER CAFE hosting the band SOUL SHOT on Saturday, May 9 @ from 8 on. Our good friend, local businessman and bassist Dave Turano is in this impressive Reggae band. I have never seen the band live, but I have seen them on TV and I can't wait to see them in person! The band was also featured at the RHODE ISLAND REGGAE FEST and plays regularly in the summer at the OCEAN MIST in Matunuck. My good friend Pamela Rosetta and I are inviting EVERYONE to come. We promise a fabulous time to be had by all jammin' mon to SOUL SHOT at the KNICK!

Onward....the 2nd Annual "Big Red" Run will be held on Sunday, June 7. This Run is in memory of a special guy who died to young, Cory "Big Red" Milton. Registration will be held at Waterford Speedbowl at noon on Sunday. The run will end at SMOKEY O'GRADYS in East Lyme, with a raffle and barbecue. Free t-shirts will be given out to the first 100 riders! Contact Gary at bigredrun@yahoo.com. for more info.

Well, well, well.....there's gonna be a new bar in town and rumor has it, it's gonna be a fun, feisty, fabulous place. The old Village Inn in White Rock is being completely transformed by my favorite guy, Allen Hill, into the new GILLIGAN'S ISLAND. With proprietor Kevin Gilligan at the helm and possibly yours truly behind the bar lending a hand it promises to be THE PLACE TO BE SEEN. Gilligan is promising fantastic food, fabulous staff, inexpensive drinks and all the best entertainment the area has to offer. Can't wait to see you there!!

So, as another month begins I would like to say a sad good-bye to the "Silver Fox" Angelo Toscano. I just can't imagine the KNICKERBOCKER or many other local bars without Angelo dancing the night away with many a beautiful woman on his arm. Always a gentleman, he will be missed. Also, good-bye to Hobbs and Rolly who will also be missed by their respective owners, Shirley Rae and Joyce Jones, they live long, happy lives with you both.

On a happier note. Happy Birthday to my sweet Jessica....can't believe it another year! This is where it starts really speeding up!! Also Congratulations to my beautiful daughter Heather on her Graduation from College.... YEA!!!! My son Nick on his (late) graduation from High School....double Yea!! Also, my niece Lindsey graduating with her Masters....Fabulous!!!

So, I hope to see you all at one or more of the events that are kicking off this month with a BAM!!! Or stop by

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MEMORIAL

WEEKEND 🎵

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🎵 Bob Marley
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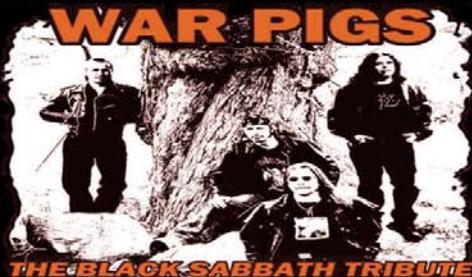
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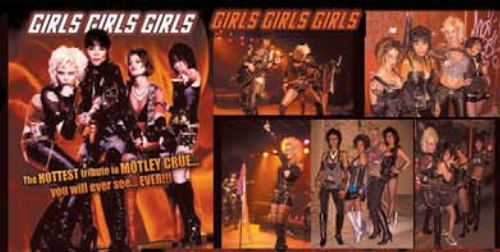
Friday May 1



FEAR THE STATE



Saturday May 2



Girls Girls Girls
Saturday May 9

WITH GUESTS



* Soul Reapin 3 * Lords of the Highway * Joe Buck Yourself

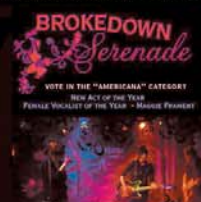
Friday May 15



Saturday May 16



Friday May 22



Saturday May 23

THE GAMMARAYS



HARD KNOXX



Saturday May 30

the always exciting HANDLEBAR CAFE on a Thursday night to say Hello.....also I hope to hear more from my Secret Spies...you've been given a job, now Function!.... Happy Anniversary my sweet Barflies.....until next month barfly2u2@yahoo.com



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1	The Village Jammers	2	Ty Cool	
8	Dan Stevens	9	Phil Newland & Chuck Davis	
15	Gail Wade & Brooks William	16	Closed for Private Party	
22	Ty Cool	23	The Hoolios	
29	Sandy Allen	30	The Hoolios	

Sunday May 10th - TyCool 12pm -3:00pm



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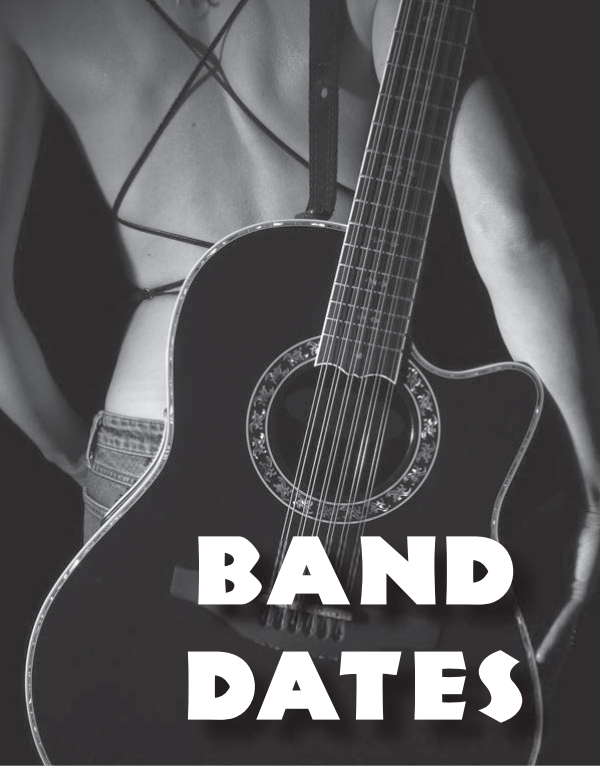
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14 The Village Jammers	15 The New Branded	16 Vince Thompson & Friends
21 JC Hatfield	22 Double Fisted	23 Bottom Drawer
28 Sandy and Mike	29 Johnny & The EastCoast Rockers	30 Boat Cake



BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

1 - Mad Murphy's, Middletown, CT
23 - Christopher's, Groton, CT
30 - Paddy's, Westerly, RI

DAN STEVENS

2 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
8 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 7pm
9 - Holmberg Orchards, Gales Ferry, CT 1-6
12 - Painted Pony, Bethlehem, CT 7:30
13 - Library, Burlington, CT 7pm
14 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
17 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 1-4
17 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
20 - Public House, Newcastle, ME 6pm
21 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 5-7
22 - Black Bull, Rockland, ME
23 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
24 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
30 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
31 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY 12:30-3:30

DARIN KEECH & BAND OF HUMANS

8,29 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
22 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

6,13,20,27 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI
7,14,21,28 - Brien's, Newport, RI

DOUBLE FISTED

8 - Hard Rock, Mashantucket, CT
15 - Stash's, New London, CT
16 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
22 - Sneaker's, Groton, CT
23 - Burke's, Niantic, CT
14 **SOUND WAVES**

1800 BAND

2 - Stash's, New London, CT
9 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT
16 - Downtown Café, Bristol, CT
22 - Time Out, Groton, CT
29 - JT's, Stafford Springs, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

8,29 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12
9 - Elks, Maynard, MA
24 - Amer. Legion, Webster, MA 4-8

GOPHERBROKE

6 - John Harvards, Manchester, CT
8 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
9 - Governor's Tavern, E. Hampton, CT
21 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11
23 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
27 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA 8-11
30 - Cambridge Brewhouse, Granby, CT

GREEN TEA

22 - Pump House, Southbridge, MA
23 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

HOPE ROAD

25 - Skipper's, Stonington, CT 2-6
28 - Black Rep. Co., Providence, RI

JAMES HARRIS

2,6,13,16,20,27,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
5,12,19,26 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
8,22 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8:30pm
9,23 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
14,28 - Apizzo, Pawcatuck, CT 6:30pm
29 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

9 - Sneaker's, Groton, CT
13 - Fire & Ice, Waterford, CT
23 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

KEVIN CRANDALL BAND

8 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
14 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 8pm
15 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
17 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 4pm

MYSTIC HORNS

1,8,15,22,29 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

15 - Free Spirit Cafe, Vernon, CT
30 - Airport Rd. Cafe, Hartford, CT
31 - Elks, Westbrook, CT 2-6

RED LIGHT

1 - Sports Bar, Windham, CT

2 - Chacers, Norwich, CT
9 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
16 - Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT 6pm
30 - Music Lady, Central Village, CT
31 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT 5pm

STU ECHARD

1,15,29 - Cherrystones, Old Lyme, CT 7-11
3,10,17,24,31 - Burkes, Niantic, CT 7-11

SUE MENHART BAND

1 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
2 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
8 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT
20 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm
22 - Stash's, New London, CT 5-8pm
31 - VFW, Plainfield, CT 3-6pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

29 - Stash's, New London, CT 5:30-8:30
30 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

VERTIGO

9 - DogWatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
21 - Family Bowl, Waterford, CT 7-10
28 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT 8-11

WILSON KANE

1 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
2 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
7,21 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
8,23 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
10 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT
14 - Michael's Dairy, New London, CT
15 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
16 - Ivory Rest., Deep River, CT
17 - Lyme Tavern, Niantic, CT
18 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
20 - Fire & Ice, Waterford, CT
22 - Sobieski Club, Deep River, CT
24 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT
29 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
30 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
31 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

1,8,23 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT
2,5 - Angelico's, E Hampton, CT
3 - Tal's Place, Webster, MA
9 - 2 Doors Down, Moodus, CT
15 - Gelston House, E Haddam, CT
16,29 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
21 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
22 - Brookside, Higganum, CT
28 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT
30 - American Legion, Moodus, CT

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BORROWED TOYS



Has there been a more aptly titled CD than Popa Chubby's 2005 live recording of "Big Man Big Guitar?" But Popa Chubby is much more than that. He's a gifted and prolific artist who comes across as articulate, very intelligent, and socially conscious. He is also a devoted family man who lives in New York with his wife Galea, who is an accomplished musician in her own right, and their twin teenage daughters. And yeah, he's a big strong guy who's as comfortable on a Broadway stage as he is at a Daytona Beach biker bar.

Born Ted Horowitz in 1960 he grew up surrounded my music in a tough Bronx neighborhood. He dabbled with the drums at a young age but when he finally picked up a guitar at the age of sixteen he found his calling and never looked back.

In all of his assorted biographies and press kits there's the story of how Popa Chubby got his name. It happened in 1990 at a jam session with Bernie Worell of P-Funk. Here's a direct quote from the big man himself: "He was singing a song called 'Popa Chubby' and he pointed at me. Popa Chubby basically means to get excited. the core of my music is about excitement. I think music should make people feel alive." The name captured the essence of what his music has come to represent.

The past decade has seen a bevy of recordings from Popa. On the popular Blind Pig label there's "How'd A White Boy Get The Blues?," "The Good,

The Bad, and The Chubby," "Peace, Love, And Respect, the aforementioned "Big Man Big Guitar," "Stealing The Devil's Guitar," and most recently "Deliveries After Dark." Also mixed in with this is a disc called "The Hungry Years" which is a collection of Popa's early work, "Electric Chubbyland" a powerhouse tribute to Jimi Hendrix, and a new release called "Vicious Country" that saw Popa teaming up with his leading lady Galea.

Popa Chubby will be bringing his high octane band to the Bank Street Cafe in New London on Saturday May 9th. This phone interview happened on April 15th just days after Popa returned from a European tour.

BH - That was a long tour of Europe you just wrapped up. How'd it go?

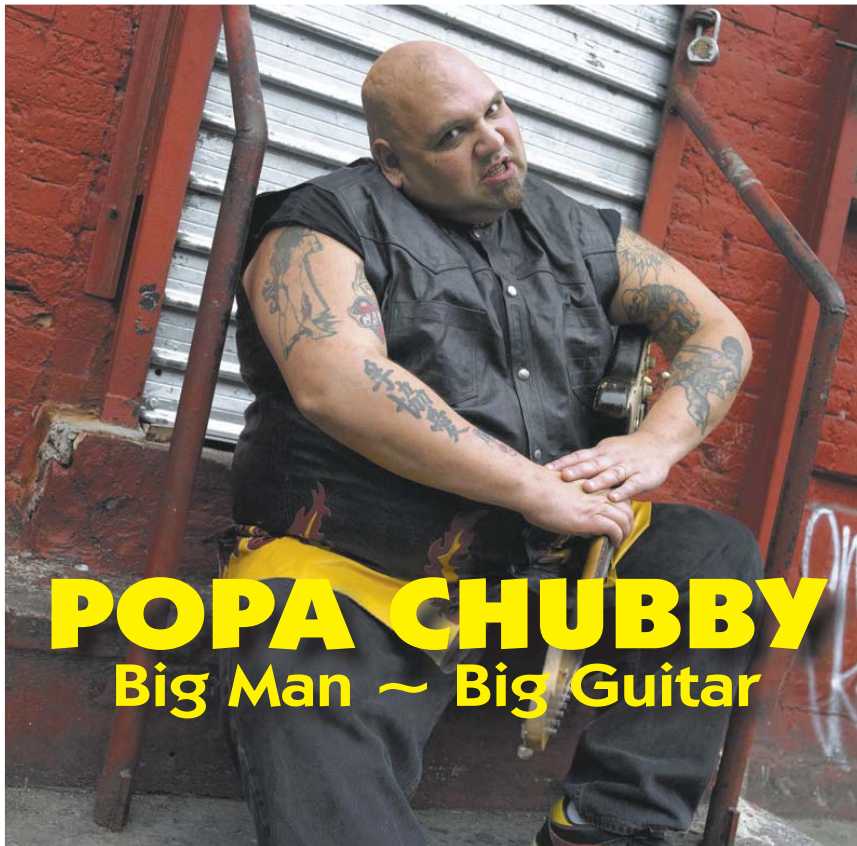
PC - "Oh it was off the hook man. It was great. We did thirty-six shows in five countries and it was just really phenomenal. I wrote this in my blog. I did a tour blog called forty days of rock that is on my myspace page. I've been touring since the early nineties and in fifteen years of touring this had to be the most memorable tour I've ever done."

BH - Why is it that bluesmen like yourself do so well in Europe?

PC - "Well first I want to correct you. I'm really not a bluesman. I play rock and roll. I grew up with Led Zepelin, the Rolling Stones, Cream and Jimi Hendrix. And I came to the blues from the back door. I love it and appreciate it but I don't make the claim to be a bluesman. There are many people who play the blues way better than

I do. But I think part of it is that I've enjoyed a great bit of popularity in the U.S. as well. I had a hit single in 1993 with 'Sweet Goddess of Love & Beer.' The U.S. is a different kind of market. It's a pop driven market. And in Europe people really attach to you as a personality and once you have a fan they're with you forever. But I have to say it's the same thing here so I'm not going to say one is better than the other. I'm going to say it's all good."

BH - Did you notice a change in Europeans since the new administration took



By Bill Harriman

over?

PC - "Oh yeah. They're happy Bush is out and they're happy Obama is in just like everybody else is. Here's the deal: There's a great scene in The Untouchables where Robert DeNiro is playing Al Capone. And he's sitting there and he lies to the press and says 'we don't do crime and I'll tell you why. It's bad for business.' George W. Bush was bad for business plain and simple. And that's what makes the world go round you know? It's the exchange of commerce, exchange of energy, exchange of ideas, exchange of music, and there's hope for that now. So even though the economy is bad and there are a lot of problems, there's definitely an overall feeling of hope in the air globally. I feel it and I think it's everywhere."

BH - You touched on these issues with your 2004 CD called "Peace Love and Respect." But I guess we all had to wait another four years.

PC - "Yeah well you know what? You all should have listened to me back then!" (laughs)

BH - You mentioned the economy. Has it affected you at all?

PC - "To be honest with you man, it's never been better for me. People need music. They need it! The only thing we deny in this country is the importance of the arts. When the government does fund arts they fund shit that personally I have no interest in. And I think a lot of my fans have no interest in. But people need it. It's like soul food plain and simple."

BH - Yeah, I've noticed you've been booked into bigger venues. Do you feel like you've made a leap forward in the industry?

PC - "You want to know the truth? I don't think of it in those terms. For me a gig is a gig. And whether you're playing for five people or five thousand people it's still an opportunity to do what you do and make people feel good. I'm grateful that I can do some bigger shows. In Paris, for instance, we sold out a three thousand seat venue. In New York I'll play B.B. King's for three hundred and it's all good. I'm just grateful that people support me. See that's the thing. You have to remember the most important thing is that it's all about the public. It's not about you and that's where so many artists are wrong. And I'm speaking from a place where I turned forty-nine a couple of weeks ago and I've been doing this for a while. I went through those changes too where I thought I was important. I'm not important. The music is important. And if you have that attitude I really feel like the people are not going to disappoint you. They are going to come out because they're going to have a good time. And that's what it's all about."

BH - I see that you play B.B.'s a lot. Weren't you in the house band at Manny's Car Wash back when that club was still around?

PC - "I was every Sunday for three and a half years."

BH - What are some of your favorite New York City venues these days?

PC - "Dude there are none anymore. I play B.B. King's twice a year and really that's it because all the clubs have closed down. I mean back in the day there was Manny's there was Tramps there was Chicago Blues, there were a lot of good venues man. And now New York, I have to say, it's not really happening."

BH - What about places like Joe's Pub or the Mercury Lounge?

PC - "Joe's Pub is probably the worst. It's a very pretentious concert venue. It's the worst place for sound in New York. I've seen two or three bands there including Junior Brown who had the most miserable show there. The Mercury Lounge is for original bands who don't want to get

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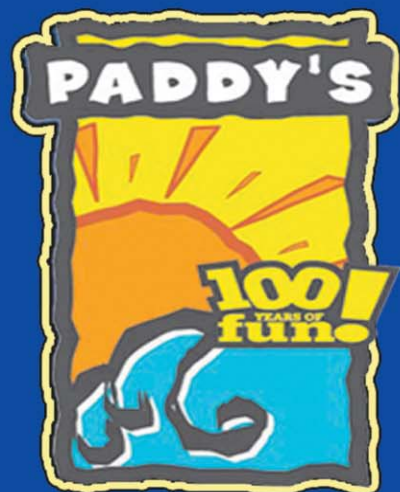
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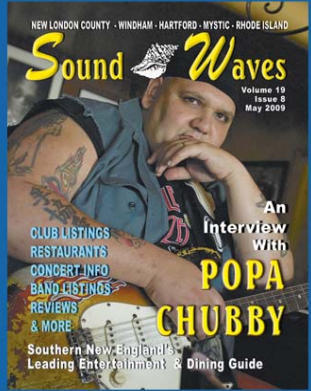
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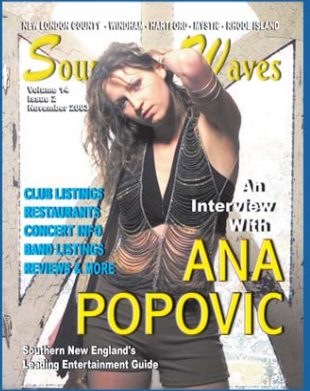
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10 DJ BOB	11 on the patio	12 7-11	13 8-12 on the patio	14 5pm on the patio	15 5pm on the patio	16 5-9 on the patio
						17 RED LIGHT DISTRICT

paid. So there's a bunch of shit like that. Back in the day when I started playing in rock bands you could play at HeeBee GeeBee's and if you drew people they'd give you a little bit of money. That doesn't happen anymore. There's not a really healthy scene for young bands coming out. And there's also, I have to say for the most part, a lot of young rock bands that are all doing the same thing and there's not a lot of originality. I'm looking for originality. I'm looking for something that's going to kick my ass with three chords."

BH - Did you ever play the Wetlands?

PC - "Oh all the time. It was a very cool club. I played there a lot and I saw a lot of great music there."

BH - Let's talk about the CD's. You must be proud of "Deliveries After Dark."

PC - "I am because on that CD I reclaimed who I really was. And like I told you, I'm a rocker."

BH - I loved your version of the theme from "The Godfather."

PC - "You know that just happened at a sound check. I started playing that and I went wow this is fucking great. I should do this! Why not a surf version of the Godfather? I'm the kind of guy who likes to state the obvious."

BH - Also the song "You Can't Stop Love" is a very sweet song for a tough guy like yourself.

PC - "Well an interesting thing about that is that right before I did that record I was feeling kind of disillusioned and then I got an offer to play Shrek on Broadway as funny as that sounds. So I went and I investigated that. I invested a month of my life and I'll tell you that experience gave me that song because I really identified with that character so much. And it also made me realize that I never wanted to do fucking Broadway ever and that I wanted to play rock and roll more than anything in my life. I went back to the stage to play my music with a vengeance after that. So every experience yields something and as a songwriter you get a song out of it."

BH - Instead of Broadway what if you were offered a part in a movie?

PC - "I've actually been in several movies. I had a small part in 'Analyze This.' I had an offer to be in a Woody Allen movie. I auditioned for 'The Quick and the Dead.' And recently I met James Woods who contacted me and tells me he wants to use me in his next film."

BH - So what are you going to do?

PC - "You know I'll tell ya. It's not my bag. I'll do it but the process of making a movie is tedious and boring and uncreative for the most part. You shoot the same scene fifty thousand times after waiting around for like two and a half hours. For me the beauty of being on tour and playing rock and roll to people is that you get on stage and I can be me. I read an interview recently in Guitar Player



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Magazine with this guitar player who I will not name and the gist of the article was that he was the best there ever was. And I kind of laughed at that because I thought 'well I'm definitely not the best there ever was but I'm the best Popa Chubby there is.' And that's what I've sought to be and you've got to be happy doing what you're doing and that's the bottom line."

BH - Let's talk about "Vicious Country" the CD you made with your wife Galea.

PC - "Oh that was a really fun project I did with my wife. It was a side project and we did kind of an outlaw country record. My wife Galea is an aficionado. She's an encyclopedia of music period.

She's from Canada and her father was a trucker. She turned me on to a lot of country music but I'm not talking about mainstream shit, I'm talking about the outlaw stuff like Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard. So we made this record and it's been a really great trip. We did a huge tv show in Paris, she and I, where we were 'album of the week.' And it's just been all good. It's been a lot of fun. And now I'm just in the process of signing a new record deal with Provogue Records which is a Dutch label that has artists like Joe Bonamassa, Walter Trout, Pat Travers, and Rick Derringer. And I'm making the hardest hitting blues/rock record you've ever heard in your life."

BH - You've had a nice run with Blind Pig Records don't you think?

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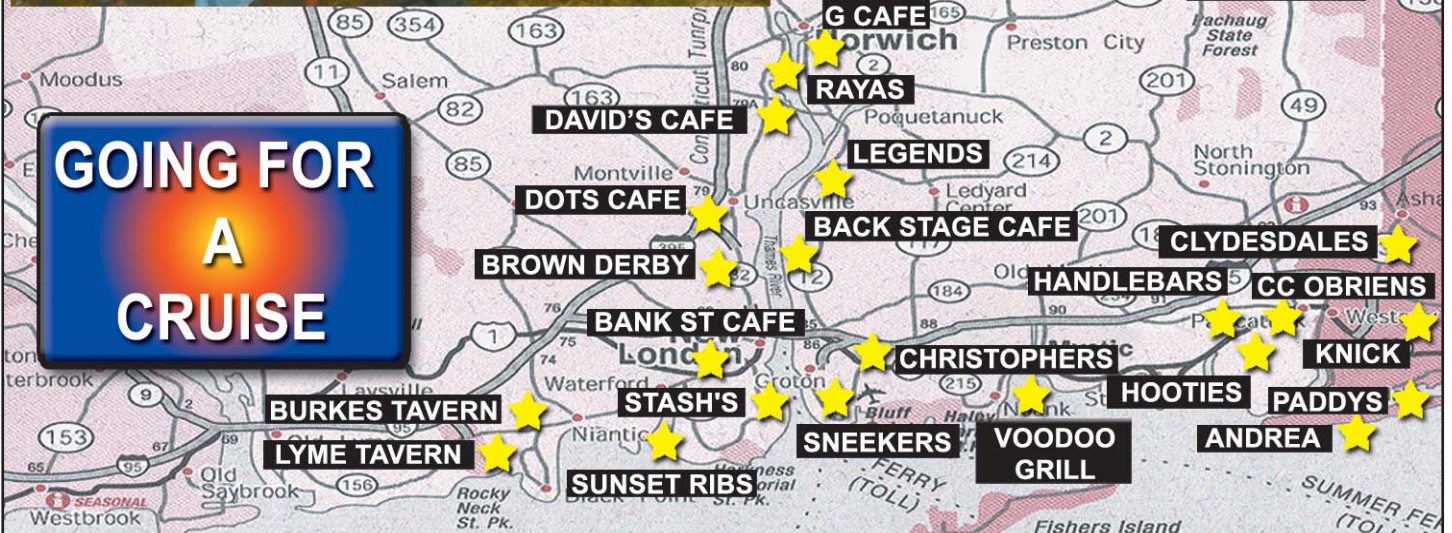
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Cover Story Continued

PC - "Yeah well Blind Pig may still release it in the states. I was with a label called Dixiefrog for the last twelve years in Europe and I just left them for Provogue. In the U.S. Blind Pig may indeed release the new record. I've been in conversations with them. It's a weird time in the record business. Record companies for a long time made a lot of money off of every artist they put out. So now that things are a little different they're still making money but they're greedy and they're crying and they're just trying to grab all they can and leave the artist with nothing. My advice to any artist is to do as much as you can yourself."

BH - Let's get back to "Vicious Country." I loved Galea's version of "Harper Valley PTA."

PC - "Oh yeah it's great. Galea rocks. She's the best bass player for that kind of music I've ever played with. She plays the best three notes in the business and she's trying to get it down to two."

BH - It must be nice to have that kind of working relationship and support from your wife. I'm sure there are plenty of musicians that aren't as lucky.

BH - "I've been lucky because I've found the right woman. You really got to find a woman who's not going to make you have to choose between her and your music. And Galea's been cool because she's as into the music as I am. And my kids are too man. My kids are total rockers. They're listening to great bands like System of a Down and they just turned me on to all this great music. They're really cool and they're really accomplished musicians in their own right. I'm really happy to watch their musicality form naturally without being forced because there is so much shit for kids out there that's contrived right now you know? There's like these School of Rock things and they just have an agenda. And I think it's so important for kids to find rock and roll just the way I did. Pick up a record and get totally transfixed by it. Then find an instrument and not want to put it down. It's great to watch them struggle with the same things that struggled with when I first started. Like for me when I first started playing the big thing was that I wanted to be in a band. The big thing was how am I ever going to find other people to play with? That process must have taken ten years until I finally hooked up with some guys who I could actually make music with. So it's pretty cool to see it come full circle."

BH - Are the people you record with like Steve Holley and A.J. Passas the same people you tour with?

PC - "A lot of times yes. Steve Holley and I have been working together about fifteen years. Steve is probably one of the two or three most accomplished studio drummers in the world. Steve played with Wings and Elton John and Junior Brown and he's been in the Ian Hunter band for the last eighteen years. So Steve and I recorded together a lot and probably will continue to do so. But I always like to get the guys who I'm playing live with on the album because you just get a vibe and a feel. If you

use studio musicians sometimes it's just so sterile. I really always want to get that something special on record that you can't really put your finger on and I think that's where it comes from."

BH - One last thing Popa. I think I should warn you that New London is a tough little town and the Bank Street Cafe can be a tough little club. What can we expect from you on May 9th?

PC - "I'm going to blow you motherfuckers away!"

There you have it. Popa Chubby really is the kind of guy who likes to state the obvious! Could there possibly be anywhere else you'd rather be on the evening of Saturday May 9th than the Bank Street Cafe in New London, Connecticut? Do you have any doubt that this badass guitarist will blow us motherfuckers away? Didn't think so!

Music Notes Continued

tech opportunities that Apple Corps and EMI did not take in the production of the releases. Although many collectors insist that only the '60s original mono and stereo mixes will do, others, impressed with some of the remixes on "Yellow Submarine" — the version of "Nowhere Man" with centered vocals, for example — had been hoping EMI's engineers would return to the original multi track session tapes and use the flexibility of today's equipment to prepare fresh mixes.

Moreover, the 5.1 surround-sound mixes included on "The Beatles Anthology" DVDs and the "Love" album had collectors hoping that EMI would release all the original albums in surround sound. The real crazy fantasiers among us hoped the reissues would be all things to all collectors: Blu-ray DVDs, for example, with the original mono and stereo mixes, a surround mix and a raft of out-takes.

Ain't happening, folks. And, while we are on the disappointment part of the program, alert readers will note that the announcement makes nary a mention of downloadable versions of this music, which is, of course, how most people seem to fancy their music these days.

Last December, Paul McCartney said that a digital releases agreement was being held up because of a dispute between Apple Corps and EMI. More recently, Dhani Harrison, the late George Harrison's son, suggested that Apple Corps was dissatisfied with the price Apple, the computer company, was charging for iTunes downloads, and hinted that the Beatles might sell digital downloads through a system of their own.

All of this finger pointing might be resolved by the September 9 release date, as well, but long suffering Beatles fans know better than to hold their breath when it comes to the release of this critically important music catalog. So, it may not be perfect, but then, what is, these days? But then, maybe we should all stop bellyaching and take the long view:

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